

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-26 (Cancelled)

27. (New) A computer readable medium having an executable application recorded thereon, the executable application comprising a program, one or more encrypted sub-routines, and a decryption routine, wherein the program is executed in response to execution of the executable application, the program requires access to the sub-routines during execution, and the decryption routine is operable to decrypt the encrypted sub-routines into an executable form, at least when access to the sub-routines is required by the program.

28. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein the decryption routine is executed whenever the program is executed so as to recreate the sub-routines in executable form on each occasion.

29. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein the decryption routine makes an entry in an address table to identify the location of a sub-routine decrypted by the decryption routine, the address table being accessible by the program for locating sub-routines for access when required.

30. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein the decryption routine is operable to detect the presence of a sub-routine already available within a system running the executable application, and to cause the program to use a sub-routine if already available.

31. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 30, wherein the decryption routine is operable to incorporate within the address table an address for a sub-routine already available, the address table being accessible by the program for locating sub-routines for access when required, whereby decryption of a further copy of the sub-routine is not required.

32. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein the decryption routine is operable to discriminate between different versions of a sub-routine and to decrypt an encrypted version of the

sub-routine in the event that only a different version is available within the system.

33. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein the executable application further incorporates an encrypted copy of the program, the decryption routine being operable to decrypt the encrypted copy of the program into an executable form.

34. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 33, wherein the decryption routine is operable to decrypt the encrypted copy of the program into an executable form in the event that an unencrypted copy of the program contained within the executable application is detected as being corrupt.

35. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein encryption and decryption include or consist of compression or decompression techniques.

36. (New) A computer system comprising processing means operable to execute software, and a computer readable medium according to claim 27, wherein the processing means is operable under control of said executable application to execute said program and to decrypt said encrypted sub-routines into an executable form, at least when access to the sub-routines is required by the program.

37. (New) A computer system operable to execute an executable application, the system including:

first store means containing computer readable code representing the executable application;

second store means containing computer readable code representing one or more sub-routines; and

loading means operable to load the code of the executable application for execution,

the executable application comprising:

a program which requires access to one or more sub-routines during execution,

the sub-routines required by the program in encrypted form;

identifying means operable to identify the sub-routines required by the program during execution thereof; and

second loading means operable to load from the second store means the sub-routines identified by the identifying means and to decrypt and load one or more encrypted sub-routines in the event that sub-routines identified by the identifying means are not contained in the second store means.

38. (New) The system of claim 37, wherein the identifying means and second loading means are operated on each occasion that execution of the program is initiated, whereby to make the sub-routines available on each occasion.

39. (New) The system of claim 37, wherein the second loading means makes an entry in an address table to identify the location of a sub-routine which has been made available, the address table being accessible by the program for locating sub-routines for access when required.

40. (New) The system of claim 37, wherein the second loading means is operable to discriminate between different versions of a sub-routine and to decrypt an encrypted version of the sub-routine in the event that the sub-routine contained in the second store means is a different version.

41. (New) The system of claim 37, wherein the first store means further contains computer readable code representing the program in encrypted form, and the second loading means is operable to decrypt and load the encrypted copy of the program in the event that the unencrypted copy of the program is detected as being corrupt.

42. (New) The system of claim 37, wherein encryption and decryption include or consist of compression or decompression techniques.

43. (New) A method of installing a piece of computer software, comprising:

1. providing an executable application which includes a program, one or more encrypted sub-routines, and a decryption routine operable to decrypt the encrypted sub-routines into an executable form, wherein the program requires access to the sub-routines during execution and the decryption routine decrypts the encrypted sub-routines into an executable form at least when access is required by the program,
2. installing the executable application,
3. commencing execution of said program,
4. operating the decryption routine to decrypt the encrypted copy of the sub-routines, and
5. installing the decrypted copies of the sub-routines for access by said program.

44. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the steps of decrypting and installing are executed on each occasion that the program is required to be executed.

45. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the method further comprises the step of identifying any sub-routines already installed and available to the program, and wherein the steps of decrypting and installing are only taken for any required sub-routine which is not so available.

46. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the step of identifying sub-routines already available includes discriminating between different versions of a sub-routine, whereby to decrypt an encrypted version in the event that only a different version is already available.

47. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the executable application further includes an encrypted copy of the said program, and the method further comprises the step of assessing said program for corruption, and decrypting and installing the encrypted copy of said program for use in the event that corruption is detected.

48. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein encryption and decryption includes or consists of compression or decompression techniques.